UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

DATE: November 9, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities Ending on November 3, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Record of Decision & Preliminary Close-Out Report Signed, Ionia City Landfill Superfund Site, Ionia, Michigan

On September 28, 2000, the Record of Decision (ROD) and Preliminary Close-Out Report (PCOR) were signed for the Ionia City Landfill Superfund site in Ionia, Michigan. The ROD calls for continued operation of the pump and treat system installed as part of an earlier removal action, natural attenuation for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) outside the influence of the pump and treat system, and institutional controls to maintain the existing soil cover and prohibit installation of drinking water and irrigation wells. The estimated cost of the remedy is $2.2 million.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

Pre-final Inspection & Preliminary Close-Out Report Signed, Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Dover Plant) Superfund Site, Dover, Ohio

On September 27, 2000, a pre-final inspection was conducted at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Dover Plant) Superfund site in Dover, Ohio. An Ohio Resource Conservation and Recovery

Act (RCRA) subtitle D solid waste cap, a passive collection trench, 30 inches of soil cover, and an additional 1-foot thick layer of common borrow have been installed over the Summer. Approximately 7,500 cubic yards of soil were placed in the empty building foundation while approximately 4,700 tons of soil and sediment were transported off-site for thermal treatment and disposal, and 2,800 tons of soil were transported off-site for disposal. Approximately 2,000 tons of clay were placed over the building foundation and approximately 34,200 tons of soil were brought to the site for final grading.

A Preliminary Site Close-Out Report (PCOR) was signed by the Region on September 29, 2000.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

Final Inspection, Butterworth #2 Landfill Superfund Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan

On October 26, 2000, a final inspection was conducted at the Butterworth #2 Landfill Superfund site in Grand Rapids, Michigan. At this time, all outstanding construction items identified at the September pre-final inspection have been completed. U.S. EPA anticipates a plan to be submitted in 2001 for long term reuse of the site to encompass walking trails, an extension of an existing bike path, and perhaps a nature conservatory.

Contact: Dion Novak (312-886-4737)

U.S. EPA Approves Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Third Site, Zionsville, Indiana

On October 24, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) approved the engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) submitted by the potential responsible party (PRP) group for the Third site (part of a Superfund National Priorities List site) located north of Zionsville, Indiana. Third site is a one-acre area of soil, groundwater, and surface water contamination located adjacent to the EnviroChem and Northside Sanitary Landfill, Inc., Superfund sites. The EE/CA evaluated several alternatives for addressing a volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater plume that now extends for several hundred feet off-site, an area of

dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) contamination in the saturated zone and VOC contaminated vadose zone soils. U.S. EPA will issue its proposed plan later this week which calls for the containment, extraction, and treatment (chemical oxidation) of the DNAPL area. The plan also recommends that a focused pump and treat system be installed in the plume and operated for approximately 4 months to decrease groundwater contamination levels by at least one order of magnitude. Vadose zone soils will also be treated using soil vapor extraction. The public comment period for the Proposed Plan will run from November 13, 2000, until December 13, 2000.

Contact: Mike McAteer (312-886-4663)

Prospective Purchaser Agreement Published & Action Memorandum Signed, Master Metal Inc., Site, Cleveland, Ohio

On September 19, 2000, a prospective purchaser agreement (PPA) for the Master Metals, Inc., site in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, was published in the Federal Register for solicitation of public comment. This proposed PPA was for the Midwest Railway Historical Foundation, an educational non-profit corporation, to allow restoration of a railroad roundhouse building associated with the Master Metals property into a historical railroad museum.

On September 22, 2000, an action memorandum was signed for a change in project scope for the site to accommodate the reuse of the property by a local lumber company.

U.S. EPA is in the process of drafting an Administrative Order On Consent (AOC) for a non-time critical removal action at the site. The AOC is expected to be mailed out the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2001. The proposed action is expected to involve excavation and treatment of lead contaminated soil from both onsite and around the perimeter property, and consolidation and placement of such soil underneath an onsite asphalt cap.

Contact: Gwendolyn Massenburg (312-886-0983)

Five-Year Review Completed, Columbus Old Municipal Landfill #1 Superfund Site, Columbus, Indiana

On September 22, 2000, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund

Division, signed a letter approving the five-year review report for the Columbus Old Municipal Landfill #1 site, in Columbus, Indiana. Mary Beth Tuohy, Assistant Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, had previously signed the report for this State enforcement lead site. The purpose of this statutory review was to determine whether the current remedy is protective of human health and the environment. The City operated this unlined, 12-acre landfill from 1938 until 1966. The landfill reportedly accepted municipal and industrial wastes including solvent, acids, bases, paints, and heavy metals. The March 31, 1992, Record of Decision (ROD) said that no action was needed, but since a road across the landfill was anticipated, some additional action needed to be undertaken if the road was built, mostly the implementation of a monitoring and inspection program. The road, an approach to the new bridge over the adjacent river, has been constructed and monitoring is ongoing. No impacts from the presence of the road have been seen. The five-year review report confirmed that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

Contact: Prabhakar Kasarabada (317-234-0352)
Bernard J. Schorle (312-886-4746)

Five-Year Review Completed, Ninth Avenue Dump Superfund Site, Gary, Indiana

On September 27, 2000, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, signed a five-year review report for the Ninth Avenue Dump Superfund site in Gary, Indiana. The review consisted of a site visit and an evaluation of the results of the monitoring data and other information submitted for the site since construction was completed. The approximately 17-acre site was used for the disposal of hazardous wastes from the early to mid 1970s. Buried wastes at the site include foundry sand, wood, concrete, bricks, metals, slag, non-containerized liquids and sludges, and drummed liquid and solid materials. As a result of two Records of Decision (RODs) (September 30, 1988, and June 30, 1989), an Explanation of Significant Differences (October 1991), and a ROD Amendment (September 13, 1994), the major components of the remedy consisted of extraction of about 6000 gallons of the organic layer floating on the groundwater, which included biological treatment of the accompanying water before it was reinjected into the ground, installation of slurry walls around the

contamination, a RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) Subtitle C cap over the primary containment area, and the installation of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system in the primary containment area. Monitoring, maintenance, and operation of the SVE system are continuing. The five-year review report confirmed that the remedy remains protective of both human health and the environment, but to ensure that this continues additional restrictions on groundwater use must be obtained.

Contact: Bernard J. Schorle (312-886-4746)

Five-Year Review Completed, Marion (Bragg) Dump Superfund Site, Grant County, Indiana

On September 28, 2000, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, signed a five-year review report for the Marion (Bragg) Dump site outside Marion, Indiana. The purpose of this statutory review was to determine whether the current remedy is protective of human health and the environment. The review consisted of a site visit and an evaluation of the results of the monitoring data and other information submitted for the site. During the period from 1949 through 1970, an industrial company leased and used portions of the 72-acre site for industrial refuse disposal. Concurrently, during the period from 1957 to 1975, Bragg Construction leased a separate portion of the site which it used for disposal of municipal wastes. A September 30, 1987, Record of Decision (ROD) selected the installation of a proper cap over the approximately 45 acres that were used for waste disposal as the major part of the remedy for the wastes and contaminated soils, and further study of the adjacent river and the on-site pond (about 15 acres in size). A September 30, 1997, ROD stated that no action was needed to address the groundwater and the on-site pond. Monitoring of the groundwater and surface waters continues. The five-year review report confirmed that the remedy remains protective of both human health and the environment.

Contact: Bernard J. Schorle (312-886-4746)

Five-Year Review Completed, A & F Material Reclaiming, Inc. Superfund Site, Greenup, Illinois

On September 27, 2000, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund

Division, signed a five-year review report for the A & F Material Reclaiming, Inc., Superfund site in Greenup, Illinois. The purpose of this policy review was to determine whether the current remedy is protective of human health and the environment. The review consisted of a site visit and an evaluation of the results of the monitoring data and other information submitted for the site since the groundwater monitoring program was initiated. The A & F Materials facility began operation in March 1977 as a recycling plant and continued until it shut down in 1980. The operation reportedly processed waste materials (including, but not limited to, oil, sludge, caustic, and sulfuric acid) into fuel oil and fire retardant chemicals. Following the June 14, 1985, Enforcement Decision Document (EDD), and as a result of several earlier removals, essentially all of the contamination was removed. Groundwater did contain some contaminants, and an August 14, 1986, EDD required future monitoring of the groundwater and the nearby river, which is ongoing. The five-year review report confirmed that the remedy remains protective of both human health and the environment.

Contact: Bernard J. Schorle (312-886-4746)

Activity Update, Velsicol Chemical Corp. (Michigan) Superfund Site, St. Louis, Michigan

The remedial activities at the Velsicol Chemical Corp. (Michigan) Superfund Site in St. Louis, Michigan (also known as the Velsicol Chemical/Pine River site) are in the process of winter demobilization which is planned for mid-November. The following summarizes Phase I remedial activities for the 2000 construction season.

Since Phase I remedial activities began in June 2000, approximately 70,000 tons of stabilized sediments have been disposed off-site. Excavation of Cell 4 has been completed, the goal for this construction season, where the average depth of sediment removal was approximately 8 feet down to the hard pan. Results from Cell 4 confirmation samples indicate that the average Total dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is below reportable limits, the site's cleanup level is 5 parts per million Total DDT. The water treatment plant (WTP) has been treating water since June 29, 2000. Since treatment began, the effluent from the WTP has been below reportable

limits for Total DDT, hexabromobenzene (HBB), and polybrominated biphenyls (PBB).

Phase I remedial activities for 2001 are scheduled for mobilization in April 2001, depending on the weather.

Contact: Stephanie Ball (312-353-2315)

Meeting, Phase II Soil Gas Sampling & Residential Well Water Sampling, Himco Dump Superfund Site, Elkhart, Indiana

On October 5, 2000, U.S. EPA met with Bayer Corp. representatives to continue discussions regarding the Himco Dump Superfund site in Elkhart, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the Phase II soil gas sampling and to discuss the March and April 2000 residential well water sampling results collected from the residents living east of the landfill, near the Nappanee Street Extension. Eleven residential wells were sampled for metals, bromide, sulfate, volatile, and semi-volatile compounds. The result of this sampling event detected low levels of benzene, chloroform, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, cis-1,2-dichloroethane, vinyl chloride, and arsenic. One compound 1,2-dichloropropane exceeded the maximum concentration limit of 5 parts per million. Very high levels of calcium, magnesium, sodium, and sulfate were also detected. Since the level of compound detected did not exceed the removal action level of 60 parts per million, bottled water was offered by Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), as a comfort, to the residents where the contaminants were found, and also to the residents living nearby where wells were not tested. A total of seventeen residents were offered bottled water, five accepted. The October 5, 2000, meeting ended with the Bayer Corp. committing to submit a proposal to the U.S. EPA for approval of their remedy to the residential well water issues (in the form of providing an alternative water supply both short term and long term) and their remedy to the soil gas issues, including a contingency plan regarding the final remedy for the landfill.

Contact: Gwendolyn Massenburg (312-886-0983)

Pre-Demolition Activities, Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio

During October 9-18, 2000, responsible parties for the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio, conducted pre-demolition activities approved by the Superfund Division earlier this year. Ross del Rosario of the Superfund Division was present to observe the various activities undertaken at the site, along with representatives from the local government and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). These activities were part of the preliminary site work (i.e., clearing and grubbing) described in the remedial design documents prepared for the site. It included characterizing contents of remaining drums at IEL prior to disposal, checking for asbestos at the three remaining buildings before demolition, removing debris and trash that has accumulated in the buildings and surrounding areas in the past 10 years, and conducting geophysical surveys of adjacent areas for buried storage tanks and containers. The next phase of the project involves the removal of all underground tanks, grouting of water wells located in two of the buildings, and demolishing the remaining buildings. This is expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

Community Interviews, Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio

On October 24-26, 2000, Ross del Rosario (Superfund Division), Denise Battaglia (Office of Public Affairs), and a U.S. EPA contractor from Tetra Tech, Inc., conducted community interviews concerning the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio. The purpose of the trip was to gauge community reaction towards a possible change in the remedy for IEL (i.e., use of phytocap in lieu of conventional cap design) and to find out what information they would like to receive in order to better understand the issues concerning this site. Information gathered from this trip will also be used to update the original community relations plan prepared in 1985. During the course of the interview, Region 5 provided a recap on recent events concerning IEL (e.g., recent and upcoming groundwater sampling, pre-demolition activities, Ombudsman's preliminary recommendations, etc.). Overall, the interviewees had a positive response towards the phytocap, although some indicated that they would like more information about the

technology before they could make an opinion on it. Region 5 representatives plan to return to the community in the near future to provide more specifics regarding any remedy change at IEL.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Demonstration, CAMEO and Landview, Illinois Science Teachers Association, St. Charles, Illinois

On October 27, 2000, John Elkmann, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, demonstrated both the Computer Aided Management Emergency Operations (CAMEO) and Landview software at the Illinois Science Teachers Association (IOTA) Convention at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, Illinois. The demonstration was in support of the outreach activities of the Environmental Education section of Public Affairs. Teachers were particularly interested in the CAMEO chemical database and the watershed database in Landview-MARPLOT.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

Presentation, Federal Emergency Management Agency Response Operations Training Workshop, Chicago, Illinois

On October 31, 2000, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), provided a presentation covering the U.S. EPA roll during a disaster related activation of the Federal Response Plan (PRP). This was part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Response Operations Training Workshop held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Region 5. Covered in the presentation were U.S. EPA response authorities, capabilities, and procedures, along with those of agencies tasked with supporting U.S. EPA. The U.S. EPA role in supporting other Federal agencies was also addressed. As part of the U.S. EPA program, Ann Whelan, Oil Planning and Response Section, gave a follow-up presentation addressing specific U.S. EPA Region 5 emergency response capabilities, resources, and location of personnel.

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